

The miners in the employ of the Petersburg Coal Co. struck on the 28th of April, because the company would not recognize a checkweighman appointed by the men at that time. The company claimed that the man chosen was not in their employ, and requested the men to select some one who was, which they refused to do until June 22, when they agreed to resume work, the objectionable checkweighman having left in the meantime. Before resuming operations the company presented a yearly contract of prices for signatures, which was signed without further delay. Time lost, 7 weeks. Number of men involved, 75.

Kramm's miners, at Kramm's Station, Peoria county, struck on the 6th of May to reinstate five men, who were discharged for sending out dirty coal. The result was Mr. Kramm closed up the mine for the summer. Number of men involved, 40.

The miners in the employ of the Ellsworth Coal Co., Danville, struck on the 17th of March to regain 10 cents per ton, which was taken off Feb. 1. The following are the facts relating thereto: The miners of this company had been working under a yearly contract price of 80 cents per ton, which expired Nov. 1, 1884. There being no contract presented by the company for the ensuing year, the price remained the same until Feb. 1, 1885, when the company notified the miners of a reduction of 10 cents per ton, thus making it 70 cents per ton, the same as is paid to the Grape Creek miners in the same vicinity. This was accepted by the men after a two days' parley, and they were working on this scale when the Staunton and Mt. Olive miners, working for the same company, came out on a strike and demanded a suspension of the company's mines at Danville. On the 17th of March the miners at Danville accordingly made a demand for a restoration of the 10 cents per ton lost Feb. 1. The company refused to accede to their wishes, which resulted in a prolonged but quiet strike, the solution of which is still pending, with no prospect of an immediate settlement. The number of men involved in this instance was 321.*

Following this will be found brief mention of the mines of each county, and of the improvements which have been inaugurated, or completed where they have been found necessary.

Finally, a list is given of those who have been killed or injured during the year in this district, while pursuing their vocations in and about the mines.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

JOHN ROLLO,
Inspector 3d district.

VERMILION COUNTY.

In this county there have been in operation in the past year 39 mines, and 16 strippings, which have produced 423,860 tons of coal, from seams Nos. 6 and 7 of the Illinois section. The former has

* This strike has since been settled upon the company's terms.

an average thickness of six feet, eight inches, and is worked somewhat extensively at Grape Creek, five miles south of Danville. Sand bars are occasionally met with in this seam, that cut out the coal entirely, and which invariably give off large volumes of water, necessitating the use of larger pumps than are generally used in this district, for the draining of mines. Seam No. 7 will average six feet in thickness and is very regular, has much less water to contend with, and is being worked extensively at Danville and other places north and west of that point. The strata overlying both seams bear a striking resemblance to each other, both being soapstone of a slipping nature, not affording a safe roof, and involving great cost for timber where the coal is taken out. The following are the more important mines in the county.

The Ellsworth Coal Co. is operating four large mines within a radius of two miles from Danville.

MINE No. 1.

This is a drift, the pillars of which are nearly drawn, but an opening has been made in the five acres adjoining, belonging to W. Reese, which will prolong operation. The mine was found in good condition.

James Jones, Sup't; W. D. Reese, Mine Manager.

MINE No. 2.

This is a shaft 74 feet deep, with general equipment good. The ventilating current in this mine was split so as to air three separate sections, but there was not a large enough volume. The fan located at the air shaft, being a four foot "Murphy," was too small as the new shaft No. 4 was also depending on it, the two shafts being connected by an entry one-third of a mile long. This has been remedied by the company. They have sunk an escapement shaft at No. 4, and erected an eight foot Champion fan on top, which will ventilate No. 4 and part of No. 2, and give all the air necessary.

James Jones, Sup't; D. W. Murray, Mine Manager.

MINE No. 3.

This is a shaft 103 feet deep, located on the I. B. & W. R. R. This mine was in good order, aired with two separate currents, furnishing 240 cubic feet of air per man on the north split, and 123 cubic feet per man on the south. A fire occurred at this mine on the night of May 6, which consumed all the frame work on top, and several feet of curbing in the shaft. The origin of the fire is unknown. No effort has been made to rebuild.

Jeremiah Morin, Sup't and Mine Manager.

MINE No. 4.

This shaft was originally sunk to a seam 310 feet deep, which has since been abandoned, and the seam now worked is the same